

FAKEBOOK

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<http://lbsc642.ahnjune.com/>

Fakebook is an online tool students can use to create fake Facebook “walls.” The service is free and very user-friendly. No login is required, which is a distinct classroom advantage over sites that require users to login through email addresses or social networking accounts. Fakebook is ideal for inspiring classroom creativity, as it harnesses a platform with which most students are very familiar and pushes them to play around with concepts and events within a curriculum. Creating fake social media profiles builds writing skills and encourages students to think of literary or historical personae as real people, rather than just dry subjects on which they will be tested later.

How to Create a Fakebook Profile

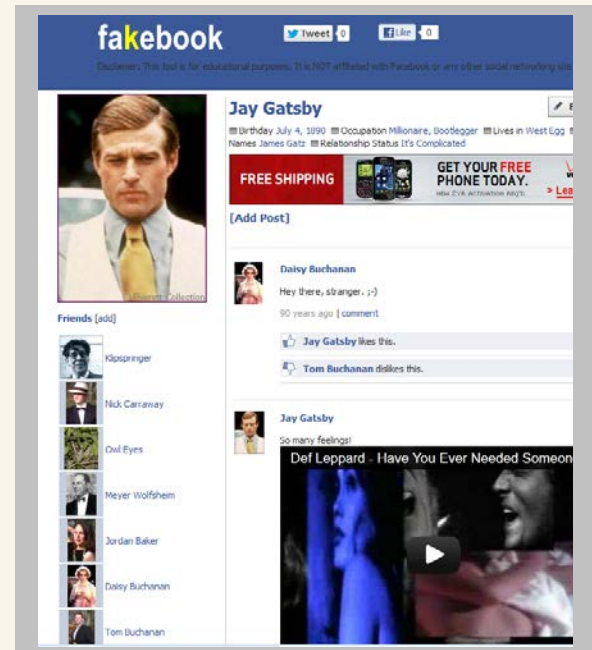
1. Go to <http://www.classtools.net/fb/home/page>.
2. Type in a name on the main heading. If the name belongs to a figure of any renown, Fakebook will automatically populate the profile picture with a result from Google Image Safe Search. The user can also upload a picture of his or her own.
3. Below the name, add profile information using the format “Relationship Status=Single” or “Current Obsession=Conquering Europe.”
4. Add friends by typing in names to the field beneath the profile picture.
5. Add posts and status updates using the “[Add Post]” command, filling in the author, content, and date as desired. These posts can be by the owner of the profile or by anyone else who might be posting there.
6. Add comments to posts using the “comment” command. These operate exactly the same as posts do. To have someone “like” a post, type the person’s name into the author field and then “likes this.” into the content field.

Notes and Caveats

- To add a YouTube video, just copy the video URL into the content field of a new post.
- In order to follow a story’s chronology, write the oldest posts first and work in order. If you need to switch around the chronology of any posts, you can hover over the post and, when you see the crosshair cursor, drag it to somewhere where.
- Save frequently. There is a save feature on the right sidebar which asks for a password prompt to allow users to edit the Fakebook profile later. This is crucial, as navigating away from the page will delete all of the user’s work.



- It should be noted that the Facebook emulated by Fakebook is several generations older than the Facebook most students today accustomed to using.



The author’s Fakebook for Jay Gatsby, located at <http://www.classtools.net/fb/43/g7DYhg>.

Lesson Plan for Literature Class, 9th-10th Grade

- After finishing the study of a novel—*The Great Gatsby*, for instance—put students into small groups of 4-5.
- Have the groups assign each member a character in the novel. In a group of five, there could be one Jay Gatsby, one Nick Carraway, one Daisy Buchanan, one Tom Buchanan, and one Jordan Baker. Or if students wanted to take a more post-modern route, there could be a Klipspringer, Owl Eyes, or even Dr. T. J. Eckleburg.
- Individually, each group member should create a Fakebook profile for their character over the course of the novel. The posts should follow the timeline of the novel, but students should feel free to add their own jokes and interpretations where possible. For instance, Gatsby might take a break from his green light gazing to post a music video for an emo love song. This should be an exercise in humor, creativity, and writing.
- Once the profiles are completed, have students get back into their groups and compare. Where do the profiles overlap? Where do they diverge? Have them discuss in groups or as a class how their individual understandings of the characters (or the characters’ own abilities, perceptions, and passions) contributed to any discrepancies or focus shifts, and why they chose to highlight what they did.